



The Technology Selection for the Blue Grass Chemical Weapons Stockpile

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Information

In February 2003, a Record of Decision identified neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation, known as "SCWO," as the chosen technology for full-scale pilot testing to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile stored at Blue Grass Army Depot. Other technologies that were evaluated included incineration; neutralization followed by SCWO and gas-phase chemical reduction; and electrochemical oxidation with silver and nitric acid.

Earlier in 2003, the Department of Defense identified neutralization followed by SCWO as the department's "agency preferred alternative," which is the technology than an agency believes would best fulfill its mission and responsibilities to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile, while giving consideration to safety, cost, schedule and environmental and technical factors.

Technology Selection Process

- A draft Environmental Impact Statement is prepared and published.
- The Overarching Integrated Product Team, or OIPT, recommends a technology to the Defense Acquisition Board.
- The Defense Acquisition Board considers the recommendation and designates an agency-preferred alternative.
- The agency-preferred alternative is published in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).
- The Defense Acquisition Executive considers the FEIS and makes the technology decision, which is documented in an Acquisition Decision Memorandum.
- To complete the environmental impact statement, the technology decision is documented in a Record of Decision.
- A Request for Proposal is issued for the design, construction, operation and closure of the full-scale pilot facility.

